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A JOINT MEMORIAL

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REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH TO APPOINT A STROKE TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE POTENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR STROKE AWARENESS, PRE-HOSPITAL AND ACUTE STROKE TREATMENT AND TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OUTLINING RELEVANT RESOURCES FOR RESPONSE, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT IN PRE-HOSPITAL AND ACUTE CARE SETTINGS.

WHEREAS, stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States today, ranking behind only heart disease and cancer, with nearly one hundred seventy-five thousand Americans dying each year from stroke; and

WHEREAS, stroke is the leading cause of severe long-term disability in the United States and each year more than seven hundred fifty thousand Americans suffer a new or recurrent stroke; and

WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of death and disability in New Mexico, killing two New Mexicans every day and disabling over three thousand New Mexicans every year; and

WHEREAS, adults with diabetes and Hispanic populations are at a higher risk in general for stroke; and

WHEREAS, currently available treatments may reduce the number of deaths and disabilities caused by strokes; and

WHEREAS, there are five links in the stroke chain of survival:

- A. rapid recognition and reaction to stroke warning signs;
- B. rapid start of pre-hospital care;
- C. rapid emergency medical services system transport and hospital pre-notification;
- D. rapid diagnosis and treatment at the hospital; and
- E. appropriate rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, the American stroke association believes that by strengthening the chain of survival the outcomes for many stroke patients can be improved; and

1 WHEREAS, Americans will pay approximately forty-nine billion dollars S
2 (\$49,000,000,000) in the coming year for stroke-related medical and disability costs J
3 that may be reduced through improved response, diagnosis and treatment for stroke; M

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE 3
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of health be requested to appoint a stroke 1
6 task force to evaluate potential strategies for stroke awareness, pre-hospital and P
7 acute stroke treatment and develop a statewide needs assessment, outlining relevant a
8 resources for response, diagnosis and treatment in pre-hospital and acute care g
9 settings; and e
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of eighteen
11 members as follows:

- 12 A. one stroke survivor;
- 13 B. one stroke family caregiver;
- 14 C. six physicians actively involved in stroke care, such as
15 representatives from the following specialties: primary care, emergency medicine,
16 neurology, neurosurgery, neuroradiology and psychiatry;
- 17 D. three allied health professionals actively involved in acute or
18 rehabilitative stroke care, such as representatives of the following: occupational
19 therapy, physical therapy, speech language pathology and registered nursing;
- 20 E. one pre-hospital emergency medical services person;
- 21 F. one urban and one rural hospital administrator;
- 22 G. one health insurance administrator or representative; and
- 23 H. three representatives from interested nonprofit groups, such as the
24 following: the New Mexico medical review association, the American stroke association
25 and the brain injury association of New Mexico; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the task force include:

- 27 A. the completion of a statewide comprehensive stroke awareness and
28 stroke treatment needs assessment, including:

29 (1) stroke awareness at the public, emergency medical

1 services and hospital levels for prevention, early response and public and professional
2 education;

3 (2) stroke treatment at the emergency medical services,
4 emergency department or facility and rehabilitation levels;

5 (3) access to rapid transport, state-of-the-art diagnostic
6 technologies and treatments and consistent diagnosis and treatment; and

7 (4) optimal utilization of resources for efficiency and
8 effectiveness;

9 B. the development of recommendations for
10 New Mexico based on the evaluation of state-of-the-art stroke treatments in all stages
11 of the stroke care continuum practiced outside New Mexico for:

12 (1) potential implementation strategies for stroke therapies,
13 including a stroke center system, based on medical evidence; and

14 (2) creation of a statewide comprehensive, consistent system
15 of stroke care that will provide rapid and appropriate stroke treatment in all stages of
16 the stroke care continuum to optimize outcomes;

17 C. a projection of the health, quality of life and economic benefits of
18 optimal stroke treatment; and

19 D. an exploration of funding opportunities to support implementation of
20 the task force recommendations; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its findings and
22 recommendations to the department of health, the legislative health and human
23 services committee and the governor prior to the first session of the forty-seventh
24 legislature; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the governor and the secretary of health.